TogetHER:

Statement by Celina Schocken, Executive Director, TogetHER
Interactive civil society hearing before the UN high-level meeting on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases

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Each of us has been seeking new opportunities to accelerate the progress toward the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target of a reduction in premature deaths from non-communicable diseases (NCDs). I co-founded a new global partnership called TogetHER for that exact purpose: to raise awareness and drive action on cervical cancer.

We have within our reach the chance to end a form of cancer – an awe-inspiring vision. We can do it with the simple and inexpensive tools we already have available, because cervical cancer is preventable. We have safe and effective vaccines against the virus that causes most cases of cervical cancer, plus a simple way to treat women’s pre-cancerous lesions before they progress to invasive cervical cancer (known as “screen-and-treat”), even in low-resource settings.

TogetHER calls upon the United Nations Member States to embrace this opportunity to prevent more than 283,000 women’s deaths each year from cervical cancer. By scaling up vaccination and screen-and-treat, especially in the less-developed regions of the world where 87 percent of cervical cancer deaths occur, we will take immediate and clear steps closer to the SDG target on NCDs.

Thank you.